



Creating Quick and Dirty Trees

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OBJECTIVE

You will:

- Understand what a quick and dirty tree is
- Know how a quick and dirty tree can help you
- Know the methodology to create a quick and dirty tree using FamilySearch.org, Ancestry.com and/or an Excel spreadsheet

WHAT IS A QUICK AND DIRTY TREE?

- Bare bones, skeleton tree that identifies the direct ancestors of you and your DNA matches
- Created in a private format to use for your genealogy research
- Creation is focused on speed with the understanding that you will thoroughly document RELEVANT lines at a late point in the research

WHY ARE QUICK AND DIRTY TREES IMPORTANT?

- Allow you to quickly identify your relationship to DNA matches
- Help you to understand where DNA matches without trees might start to fit

LEARN MORE ABOUT QUICK AND DIRTY TREES

What is a Quick and Dirty Tree?

<https://whoareyoumadeof.com/blog/what-is-a-quick-and-dirty-family-tree/>

Quick and Dirty Family Trees for DNA Matches – Author uses FamilySearch to find connection

<https://www.ongenealogy.com/quick-dirty-family-trees-for-dna-matches-q-d-trees/>

Quick and Dirty Trees for DNA Matches – Author focuses more on relevant records, offering a different perspective in how to conduct quick research

<https://www.krishocker.com/quick-dirty-trees-for-dna-matches/>

QUICK AND DIRTY TREE RESEARCH PROCESS

1. Build out your own tree

- i. In Ancestry.com or MyHeritage.com, create a public tree and build it out back to five generations
 1. Link the tree to your DNA results to capitalize on ThruLines and Theory of Family Relativity
 2. Create a new, private, tree that includes the same five generations
- ii. In a private database, create a tree going back five generations
- iii. In Excel, add an entry for yourself, going back five generations

2. Identify a match to research

- a. Choose a match with a tree – either public linked or public and unlinked

3. View their tree and see if any relationship is visibly available

- a. Is there a ThruLines or Theory of Family Relativity match?
- b. Can you see any full names or surnames that you instantly recognize?
- c. Click on each person to open more information – do you recognize any places?

4. Add a deceased member of the family from their tree into your tree

- a. In Ancestry.com and MyHeritage.com
 - i. Often, you'll need to start by adding them as a child to a random person – then detach the relationships
 - ii. Use tree hints as guides to build out a quick skeleton
- b. In a private database or Excel
 - i. Use the matches tree to build out a skeleton
 - ii. Consult FamilySearch Family Tree to see if a tree has already been created
 - iii. Conduct extra research if necessary – stick to the basics

5. Research back on the match's tree five generations

- a. In Ancestry.com and MyHeritage.com
 - i. focus first on relevant places and surnames
- b. In Excel
 - i. Mark all the relevant ancestors and surnames in **Bold** to make them stand out.

6. Identify the Most Recent Common Ancestor OR Relevant Ancestors

- a. Merge the MRCA in Ancestry.com and MyHeritage.com
 - i. If no MRCA emerges or you're working with adoption where you don't know the MRCA – move to the next family until you start seeing familiar names

7. Repeat the process with the next match